

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application in view of the reply previously filed on December 23, 2003 and following remarks is respectfully requested. Applicants acknowledge the Advisory Action mailed on February 9, 2004 and, further, note that all previous rejections would be overcome by the reply filed December 23, 2003. In view of the reply filed December 23, 2003, claims 29, 31, 32, 35-37, 40-42, 44, 45, 47-51, and 53-67 are currently pending.

In the Advisory action dated February 9, 2004, it is asserted that the pending claims would be obvious over Lee *et al.* (*Prot. Express. Purif.* 12:53, 1998). Applicants respectfully submit that a Declaration with an Exhibit previously made of record (filed with the reply dated December 17, 2001, Paper No. 15) provides evidence that Applicants have reviewed laboratory records and readily conclude that compositions of matter and methods as claimed in the subject application were conceived prior to 1998. Accordingly, this evidence establishes that Lee *et al.* is not prior art to the instant application.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims pending (29, 31, 32, 35-37, 40-42, 44, 45, 47-51, and 53-67) in the application are now believed to be allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney if there are any questions prior to allowance of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,
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